

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
MARCH 29, 1974:

QUOTE: Q. YESTERDAY THERE SEEMED TO BE A SERIOUS DISAGREE-
MENT BETWEEN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND THE INTERPRETATION
IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON THE DELAY OR POSTPONEMENT IN
HOMEPORTING ARRANGEMENTS WITH GREECE. CAN YOU TELL US WHO
WAS TELLING THE TRUTH?

A. WELL, I WOULD PREFER ANOTHER KIND OF QUESTION THAN THAT,
BUT LET US MERELY PUT IT THIS WAY: FIRST, I'M NOT GOING TO
COMMENT ON ANYTHING SAID BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. BUT, AS
WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED HERE -- WE HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED
TO CONCUR IN A FINAL IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE II OF HOME-
PORTING AS YET. WE DID AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO THE TECHNICAL
DISCUSSIONS GOING AHEAD. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED; AND
THE DELAY IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON THESE MATTERS IS THE
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RESULT, SO FAR, OF UNRESOLVED DIFFERENCES ON SOME ASPECTS

OF THOSE ARRANGEMENTS.

NOW, WHEN THOSE ARRANGEMENTS ARE COMPLETED, THE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT -- AND THAT IS A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITY -- WE WILL THEN HAVE THE ISSUE BEFORE US AGAIN. AND, AS THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL UNDER WAY, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO OFFER.

Q. WE WERE TOLD, QUITE CATEGORICALLY, THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT DID CONCUR ON PHASE II SOME WHILE AGO.

A. THAT IS WHAT I SAID -- WE CONCURRED SOMETIME AGO IN PHASE II IN PRINCIPLE. THAT WAS WHAT I MEANT WHEN I SAID IT FIRST. WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE, AND THAT IS WHAT WE AGREED TO.

THEY WILL COMPLETE THEIR NEGOTIATIONS AND THEN THEY WILL COME BACK TO US.

Q. THE ONLY REASON FOR THE DELAY IS BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS OF TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS -- AS THE SPOKESMAN SAID Y ESTERDAY, INVOLVING HOUSING AND PLANES FOR A CARRIER?

A. WE ARE DEALING WITH THIS AS IT EXISTS, AND IT WILL COME BACK TO US.

Q. YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS NOT AWARE OF ANY POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WITH THE GREEK REGIME -- BETWEEN THIS GOVERNMENT AND THE GREEK GOVERNMENT?

A. IF YOU WANT TO PUT IT THAT WAY. I THINK IT IS -- AND YOU SHOULD APPLY IT ANOTHER WAY. AND THAT IS: WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS ARE AFFECTING THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE GOING ON AT THIS PHASE. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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